

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No. : 09/409,947 Confirmation No. 6167  
Applicant : Nizri et al.  
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TC/Art Unit : 2617  
Examiner : Jean Alland Gelin  
Docket No. : 990520  
Customer No. : 23696

Mail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Prior to consideration of the above referenced patent application, Applicants respectfully submit the following amendments and remarks:

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 15 of this paper.